

England - Board of Trade

REPRESENTATION

(5)

OF THE

LORDS OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL,

APPOINTED FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF

ALL MATTERS

RELATING TO

TRADE AND FOREIGN PLANTATIONS,

UPON THE PRESENT STATE OF

T H E L A W S

FOR REGULATING THE

IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION

OF

C O R N :

And submitting to HIS MAJESTY'S Consideration some further Provisions, which are wanting to amend and improve the said Laws.

A NEW EDITION.

L O N D O N :

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1800.

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RESOLUTION

OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL



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P R E F A C E

TO THE

PRESENT EDITION.

IN the present state of this Country, when the prices of wheat and of all other sorts of grain are so high, the Public will naturally wish to see the representation made to the King, by the lords of the committee of His Majesty's most honourable privy council, on the 8th March 1790, as it contains the principles on which many of the regulations in the present corn laws are founded, as well as some account of former systems, and of the laws relating to them. This representation was printed in the year 1790, by order of both houses of parliament; but it is probable that many of the copies then delivered to the members, may have been lost or mislaid; it has on that account been thought proper to reprint it. A lapse of ten years since this representation was presented to the two houses of parliament, and the events which have happened during that interval, may have furnished reasons to justify many in not entertaining the same favourable sentiments of those principles, with which

they were at first received by the public, and which induced the legislature, after full consideration, to adopt most of them: It may now perhaps be thought no longer safe to rest so important a concern, as the trade in the most necessary article of life, solely on those principles. Whatever may be the opinion of the public on this most interesting and delicate subject, the present re-publication will be so far of use, that it will bring those principles again under their view, and thereby enable every one to form a correct judgment concerning them. It may not however be improper to observe, that in this Representation, the public were first informed by authority, that the quantity of wheat produced in the kingdom, was not then, and had not been for several preceding years, equal to the consumption of its inhabitants*; and consequently, that the price of it had for some time continued to advance, though in a former period, that is in the first fifty years at least of the present century, the quantity of wheat produced in the kingdom, had been far more than equal, upon an average, to the consumption of its inhabitants, so that the prices had then been generally low, and great quantities of it had been exported to foreign countries, and large sums paid out of the public revenue, to encourage such exportation.

25th October 1800.

*Note. * The period when the importations of wheat into this kingdom first began to exceed, on an average, the exportations of wheat from this kingdom, was between the years 1765 and 1769. probably in the year 1767. The importation of oats, into this kingdom, began to exceed the exportation of oats from this kingdom, at a much earlier period.*

P R E F A C E

TO THE

FIRST EDITION.

IN order to understand the better the following Representation on the corn trade and corn laws of this country, it is proper to premise, that in a former Representation to His Majesty, presented about the middle of last December, it was shewn, that the price of wheat, taken on an average from the several markets of England, was at that time fifty-two shillings per quarter—That the price of wheat, as taken from the market of Amsterdam, which is a free market for corn, and affords therefore the best criterion of the medium price of Europe, was, by the lowest estimation, ten shillings higher per quarter—That the prices of corn in other foreign countries, were much higher than in ordinary years—That the old stock of wheat was nearly exhausted in most parts, by the demands of the foregoing year—That bounties were given by the municipality of Paris, on wheat brought into the said city; and that bounties were paid, as well by the government of France, as by the municipalities of many of the great towns situated upon the coast, on wheat imported therein—That in Spain, all duties on corn imported were taken off, and that bounties were given on wheat and Indian corn imported into that kingdom—That the export of wheat had been prohibited from several

of the northern countries, from whence great quantities of that article are usually drawn, for the supply of the southern countries of Europe—That, in expectation of a scarcity, many governments had formed magazines for the sustenance of their subjects; and that contracts had been made with merchants of England, for the delivery of American wheat at sixty-two and sixty-five shillings per quarter, and for the delivery of American flour at sixty shillings per sack, on its arrival in the Channel.

It was also shewn, that from a failure in the execution of an act passed in the last session of parliament, there was at that time no law in force, sufficient to prevent the exportation of corn, whatever the price thereof might be, or to permit the importation upon low duties, if it should be found necessary.

From a due consideration of all these circumstances, the privy council then advised his Majesty to issue an order in council for preventing the exportation, and allowing the importation, of several sorts of corn, until the sense of parliament could be taken on this subject, in order to insure to his Majesty's subjects a continuance of the advantage they then enjoyed, of being supplied with corn at a much cheaper rate than it could be obtained in most of the neighbouring countries, and thereby to execute and fulfil what the privy council conceived to be the real intentions of the legislature, for the benefit of the people of this kingdom.

As soon as the parliament met, they shewed their approbation of this measure, by passing a law for preventing the exportation, and allowing the importation, of corn, in the manner directed by the before-mentioned order in council, till the 29th of September next.



REPRESENTATION, &c.

At the COUNCIL CHAMBER, Whitehall, the 8th of
March 1790.

(L. S.)

By the Right Honourable the Lords of the
Committee of Privy Council, appointed for
the consideration of all matters relating to
Trade and Foreign Plantations.

To the KING's Most Excellent MAJESTY.

May it please Your Majesty,

THE Committee of Your Majesty's most honour-
able privy council, appointed for the consideration
of all matters relating to trade and foreign plantations,
humbly offered to Your Majesty in a former representa-
tion their advice on such measures as, in their judgment,
were necessary, in order to apply an immediate remedy
to the evils likely to arise from the difficulties, which had
occurred in the execution of the laws of this kingdom,
made for regulating the exportation and importation of
corn, and to preserve Your Majesty's subjects from being
exposed to that distress for want of this indispensable ar-
ticle of subsistence, which has of late been severely felt
in several neighbouring countries; but the committee
having in their investigation of this subject been led to

consider the state of the corn laws, and the trade of corn in general, and finding that some further provisions are wanting to amend and improve the said laws, they presume to lay this Second Representation before Your Majesty, and therein to submit to Your Majesty's consideration their sentiments on such amendments and alterations in the subsisting laws, as appear to them to be expedient.

The committee thought this subject the more deserving their attention, as they find, by an account * laid before them, of the quantity of corn imported and exported during the last eighteen years, that this kingdom, which, in former times used to produce more corn than was necessary for the consumption of its inhabitants, has of late years been under the necessity of depending on the produce of foreign countries for a part of its supply.

Barley is the only article, of which this country produces more, at present, than it consumes. We had formerly a large and profitable trade in the export of corn;—upon an average of nineteen years, from 1746 to 1765, the corn exported from this country is supposed to have produced a net profit of not less than £.651,000 per annum;—but in the eighteen years from 1770 to 1788 †, by setting the value of the corn imported against that of the corn exported, and deducting the amount of the duties received thereon from the bounties paid during the same period, it will appear that this country has upon an average sustained a loss in this trade of £.291,000 per annum, which sum it has annu-

* *Vide Appendix, No. 1.*

† *Vide Appendix, No. 1.*

ally paid to foreign nations for the supply of its inhabitants.

The following Table will shew the quantity of each sort of corn exported annually from England, upon an average of 19 years, from 1746 to 1765, inclusive: and also the quantity of each sort of corn exported annually from England and Scotland, upon an average of 18 years, from 1770 to 1788 inclusive; with the bounty in each period paid thereon.

Vide Appendix, No. 2.	19 years average, from 1746 to 1765, inclusive, from England *.	18 years average, from 1770 to 1788 †, inclusive, from England & Scotland.
	Quarters.	Quarters.
Wheat and wheatmeal - - -	359,810	108,247
Barley and malt - - - - -	306,974	99,458
Oats and oatmeal - - - - -	20,702	25,802
Rye - - - - -	47,677	6041
Annual bounty paid thereon	£. 138,677. 3. 7½	£. 32,968. 6. 4½
Bounty paid on corn exported from Great Britain in 1788 - - - - -	£. 45,182. 12. 3½	

Note. * The accounts in Scotland of imports and exports were not kept by the Commissioners of the Customs there before the year 1755, in such a manner as to enable the Committee to obtain an accurate account of the corn imported and exported to and from that part of the United Kingdom during the first of these periods.

Note. † An account of the quantity of the several sorts of corn exported and imported from and to Great Britain in the year ending the 5th January 1790, has not yet been obtained by the Committee, as the accounts from Scotland have not been hitherto transmitted.—But the bounty on corn exported from England only, in the course of this year, amounted to £. 76,551. 16 s. 1½ d. which is considerably more than double the bounty paid on all corn exported from England and Scotland on an average of the eighteen preceding years, and proves how great a quantity of corn during the course of last year was carried out of the kingdom, before the prices of the several sorts exceeded the prices at or below which export is by law permitted.

The following Table will shew the quantity of each sort of corn imported annually into England, upon an average of 19 years, from 1746 to 1765, inclusive: and also, the quantity of each sort of corn imported annually into England and Scotland, upon an average of 18 years, from 1770 to 1788, inclusive.

Vide Appendix, No. 3.	19 years average, from 1746 to 1765, inclusive, into England.		18 years average, from 1770 to 1788, inclusive, into England and Scotland.
	Quarters.		Quarters.
Wheat * - - -	12,654	Wheat and flour	150,905
Barley - - -	1,500	Barley and malt	48,048
Oats and oatmeal	30,449	Oats and oatmeal	291,405
Rye - - - -	502	Rye - - - -	15,577
Beans and pease	None.	Beans and pease	31,683
Annual duties paid thereon }	£. 1,569. 8. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Annual duties paid thereon }	£. 7,620. 8. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$

Note to the present edition. * No wheat-flour, or malt, were imported into England in the 19 years from 1746 to 1765, and in several of these years there was no importation into England of several of the before-mentioned sorts of grain.

In the first edition there was inserted in this place an account of the corn exported and imported from and to Ireland for ten years, ending the 25th March 1789; but as this account throws no light on the question, in its present state, it is here omitted. For the same reason are omitted in the Appendix, two accounts relating to the trade of corn in Ireland.

The committee hope, that a change so extraordinary in a concern of so much importance, is only to be imputed to an increased population; to the numbers of horses and other cattle, which we now breed and maintain more than formerly; and to that opulence which has generally diffused itself amongst all ranks of men, from the extension of our trade and manufactures, and which has occasioned an increased consumption of all the necessaries of life;—for there can be no reason to suppose either that the agriculture of the country has of late declined, or that, for so long a continuance of years, the seasons can have been uniformly unfavourable.

The committee are further impressed with the importance of this subject, and are the more induced to think that it requires immediate attention, as from accounts they have received of the produce and consumption of corn in most European countries, they are inclined to believe, that in ordinary years the produce of corn in Europe is not more than equal to the consumption of its inhabitants; and that whenever the crops fail in any degree, the deficiency can only be supplied from the harvest of America.

The lords of the committee are of opinion, that the principles which are best adapted for the conduct and regulation of other trades, cannot in every respect be applied to this of corn: other trades in general produce only the comforts and conveniencies of life;—this has for its object an article that is indispensably necessary for subsistence: If they at any time decline, some individuals may be affected in their fortunes, and the public can only suffer a temporary loss and inconvenience;—but a mistaken speculation in the trade of corn may produce dearth—the consequence of which will always be general distress, and sometimes popular commotions: so that in the management of this trade, government ought ever to have in view, not only the prosperity of the trade itself, and the interests of those concerned in it, but the subsistence of the people.

The

The best market for corn in every country is the home market; and the circulation of it within every kingdom ought to be free, so that the surplus of one part may supply the deficiencies of the other, and that the price throughout the whole country may be brought as near as possible to a level.

To facilitate the circulation of corn, this kingdom enjoys peculiar advantages, which arise from its situation as an island, from the number of its canals, and the excellence of its roads; and by these means the populous and manufacturing counties in some parts of the island can draw the necessary supplies from other parts, which are less populous, but more productive of corn.

In other countries magazines of corn are formed by their respective governments, or by the principal magistrates of great cities, as a resource in times of scarcity. This country has no such institution—The stores of corn are here deposited in the barns and stacks of wealthy farmers, and in the magazines of merchants and dealers in corn, who ought to be by no means restrained, but rather encouraged in laying up stores of this nature, as, after a deficient crop, they are thereby enabled to divide the inconvenience arising from it as equally as possible through every part of the year; and by checking improvident consumption in the beginning of scarcity, prevent a famine, which might otherwise happen before the next harvest. The inland trade of corn therefore ought to be perfectly free.—This freedom can never be abused—To suppose that there can be a monopoly of so bulky and perishable a commodity dispersed through so many hands over every part of the country, is an idle and vain apprehension. The ancient laws of this kingdom, which by a false policy restrained the inland trade of corn, have in general been repealed. The 15th Cha. II. ch. 7. which does not permit the buying corn to sell again, and the laying it up in granaries, except when the several sorts of corn are below certain prices therein mentioned, is the only

only law of this description which will now be found in our statute book, and ought certainly not to remain there any longer.

But to extend the freedom of this trade to an unrestrained export of corn to foreign countries, would, in the opinion of the committee, be productive of the greatest evils; such export might, in a year of general scarcity, exhaust the stock of any kingdom, and deprive its inhabitants of what is necessary for their subsistence, by sending it for the supply of other nations. There is hardly a country in Europe, the government of which, in the course of last year, did not find it necessary to interpose either to retain its own stock wholly for the consumption of its inhabitants, or at least to prevent an unlimited exportation; and, it is singular to observe, what industry and artifice have been employed by the merchants, and even by the ministers of many countries, to break through these restraints, and to draw supplies from their neighbours. The greatest advocates for a free trade in corn with foreign countries, have always cited the practice of Hamburgh, Holland, and particularly of the town of Amsterdam, being free markets for corn, as a proof that no inconvenience would arise to the inhabitants of a country by allowing at all times perfect liberty in the import and export of corn: The senate of Hamburgh, sensible of the imperfection of such a system, have always kept a magazine well stored with every sort of it, to provide for the consumption of their own inhabitants, in cases of emergency; and, in the last year, many towns of Holland thought it necessary to prohibit the export of corn from their own precinct and jurisdiction to other towns within the same province; and the free circulation of it was thereby prevented even in their own country; and the magistrates of Amsterdam, which is the greatest corn market of Europe, though they kept their port open for the importation and exportation of corn, yet, being fearful that the prices would rise so high as to occasion distress to its inhabitants, collected and laid up in
magazines,

magazines, at the public expence, great quantities of corn, and sold it to the people at reduced prices. And, during the last autumn, if the laws of this country had not restrained the export of corn, and Your Majesty had not providently interposed to carry the intention of the legislature, in this respect, into perfect execution, your Majesty's people would have been deprived of the advantage they now enjoy, of purchasing this necessary article of subsistence at a much cheaper rate than those of any neighbouring nation.

It appears, therefore, that the principles on which our corn laws are founded are in general wise; the two objects they have in view are, first to secure a reasonable price at all times to the farmer, and in the next place to prevent that price being at any time so high as to distress the poor and the manufacturer. With a view to the first of these objects, export is allowed, and even encouraged by a bounty, till the price of wheat arrives at 44s. per quarter; and the import of foreign wheat into this country is restrained by a high duty, till the price of wheat in the home market arrives at 48s. The same policy is observed with respect to other articles of corn.—It is a true observation, that no market will be plentifully supplied with corn, unless some liberty is given of disposing to profit of the surplus, for which there may be no demand; without this liberty the farmer would endeavour so to contrive, as to produce no more corn than could be sold in the home market at a reasonable profit, and his speculations would extend no further; the consequence would be, that he would frequently produce less than the home market would demand, and scarcity must sometimes ensue; for it has been found by experience, that a very small deficiency of crop will raise the price in a very high degree.

It is right, therefore, to allow the export of corn, whenever it is sold under a certain price;—it is not necessary for the committee to offer any thing in justification of that policy,

policy, which commenced at the revolution, of encouraging by bounty this exportation, and which the legislature has thought fit to continue to the present time. Whatever doubts may be entertained by some, of the wisdom of this measure, it cannot surely be thought prudent to alter it at present; for it is a certain fact, that the agriculture of this country has progressively increased and flourished from the time when this bounty was first granted; though it is true, that other causes have been assigned for this improvement—This bounty may be considered as a compensation made to the farmer for the restraints imposed on his trade, in order to ensure subsistence to the people: and it may well be doubted whether the exportation which is necessary to encourage tillage in a degree sufficient for the home supply (as before stated) would take place if this bounty should be withheld.—In all years, and particularly, in those of reasonable plenty, the price of corn is lower in the countries bordering on the Baltic, and in America, than it is in Great Britain.—In the North of Europe corn can be more cheaply raised, because the value of land is less, and the price of labour is lower.—In America, the value of land is greatly less, and from the extent of their farms, they are able to resort to new lands, or to substitute fallows in the place of manure, and can therefore raise corn without this additional expence; and these circumstances more than compensate the higher price of labour in that country.—Without the aid therefore of the bounty, the merchants of the countries before mentioned would be able to under-sell our corn factors in foreign countries; and in consequence thereof, the surplus corn of this kingdom would never find a vent, except in times of general scarcity on the Continent (as of late has been the case) and it is probable that in common years, when, in order to keep up the price at home, some sale in the foreign market is most necessary, very little corn would be exported from Great Britain.

When the price of wheat is from 44s. to 48s. per quarter, neither the exportation of British wheat, nor the importation

importation of foreign on low duties, is allowed; from which it may be inferred, that it is the opinion of the legislature, that between 44s. and 48s. is the medium price at which wheat ought to be sold in the markets of this country, for the encouragement of the farmer on one hand, and the comfortable subsistence of the people on the other. It has been remarked by attentive observers, that in manufacturing towns there is more regularity of conduct, and more productive industry, when corn is not at a price unusually low; but the condition of the country labourer certainly requires, that the price of it should be low, that he may be enabled by his wages to purchase what is necessary for his subsistence—As soon as the price of wheat passes 48s. the legislature have thought it their duty to attend to the necessities of the poor, and to encourage the importation of foreign wheat, by allowing it to be imported at very low duties.

The whole of this system wisely corresponds with those principles by which the corn trade ought to be conducted. The only doubt that can be entertained upon it is, whether the export does not stop before the price is sufficiently high for the encouragement of agriculture, and the interest of the farmer—It is singular that the price at which corn is prohibited to be exported is now lower than it was above a century ago, and that the price, at which foreign corn is permitted to be imported at reduced duties, is now also lower than it was above a century ago; and during this period the prices of the principal sorts of corn, taken upon an average of a number of years, do not appear to have advanced in an equal degree with the prices of many other articles which are of general use, and even of some which are the produce of the farm; and there are those who doubt whether this circumstance has not contributed to make the quantity of corn produced not equal to the consumption, as it is at present.

The policy of our laws has however produced an effect highly advantageous, both to the grower and consumer
of

of corn, by rendering the vicissitudes of plenty and dearth less frequent than they were formerly, and by making the price of corn more steady and uniform.—The farmer may now at all times depend on a certain reasonable price, and feels that his labour in cultivating his land will not be wholly unprofitable—On the other hand, the poor have no reason to apprehend, as in ancient times, the calamities of dearth and famine.

The committee having now traced the principles, by which in their opinion the corn trade ought to be regulated, and to which our corn laws appear in general to conform, they will proceed to consider in what respects these laws are defective, and what amendments ought to be made to them, so as to make them fully correspond with the principles before stated.

It appears from the provisions of ancient statutes, and particularly from the preamble of Stat. 15 Hen. VI. C. 2. that it was not lawful * to carry corn out of the realm without the licence of the king ; —By this statute permission was first given to export several sorts of corn out of the realm, whenever the price of each sort was at or below the prices therein mentioned.

By subsequent statutes the export of the different sorts of corn was in like manner allowed, whenever the price of each sort was at or below the prices mentioned in each statute respectively.—The following table, N° 4, will shew what the prices were, at or below which corn was allowed to be exported at different periods, according to the monies of the times.

* *In Maddox's History of the Exchequer, Ch. 14. Sec. 15, there is an account of several amerciaments for exporting corn without licence in very early times.*

N^o 4. PRICES at or below

BY STATUTES,						Wheat.	Rye.
						s. d.	s. d.
15	Hen. VI. c. 2.	-	-	-	Per Q ^r	6 8	—
1	and 2 Ph. and M. c. 5.	-	-	-		6 8	4 —
1	Eliz. c. 11.	-	-	-		6 8	5 —
5	Eliz. c. 5.	-	-	-		10 —	8 —
13	Eliz. c. 13.	-	-	-		When the prices was made by peace.	
35	Eliz. c. 7.	-	-	-			
1	Ja ^s c. 25.	-	-	-		20 —	13 4
21	Ja ^s c. 28.	-	-	-		26 8	15 —
3	Ch ^s I. c. 4.	-	-	-		32 —	20 —
12	Cha ^s II. c. 4.	-	-	-		The same prices	
15	Cha ^s II. c. 7.	-	-	-			
1	W ^m and M. stat. I. c. 12.	-	-	-		40 —	24 —
11	and 12 W ^m c. 20.	-	-	-		48 —	32 —
13	Geo. III. c. 43.	-	-	-		No custom, or The subsidy, and	
						44 —	28 —

Note. The several sorts of corn so exported, during all this time, paid the duty of export, which varied according as the law stood in each period. By the act of tonnage and poundage, 12 Charles II. c. 4. the duty on corn exported was the same whatever the price might be; it was not however high, as corn of every sort was rated at a very low value in the book of rates.

Note.

which Exportation was permitted.

Pease.	Beans.	Oats.	Barley.	Malt.	Beer or Big.	Buck Wheat
<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>		
—	—	—	3 —			
—	—	—	3 —			
4 —	4 —	2 —	3 3	3 3		
8 —	8 —	—	6 8	6 8		
were so reasonable and moderate as that no prohibition the queen or council, or justices of assize, or of the						
13 4	13 4	—	12 —	12 —		
15 —	15 —	—	14 —	14 —		
16 —	16 —	—	16 —	16 —		
as in the last act.						
24 —	24 —	16 —	20 —	20 —		
32 —	32 —	13 4	28 —	28 —	—	28
any fee or reward, to be paid on exportation. all duties, to cease.						
28 —	28 —	14 —	22 —	—	22	
Malt made of barley, beer, or big, to be governed by those grains respectively.						

Note. The duties on export were taken off by 1st William and Mary c. 12. and by the 11 and 12 William, c. 20. A bounty was likewise given on several sorts of corn exported, by the before-mentioned act of 1st William and Mary, which bounty has been varied by several subsequent statutes. The following Table, No. 5, will shew all the variations made in the bounty on each sort of corn, and the prices according to which it was paid.

N^o 5. PRICES at and below which

By Statutes,		Wheat.	Rye.	Pease.
1st W ^m & M. stat. 1. c. 12.	The price per quarter - -	s. 48	s. 32	—
	Bounty - -	5	3 6	—
5th Anne, c. 8.	{ The price per quarter - }	—	—	—
	Bounty - -	—	—	—
5th Anne, c. 29.	{ The price per quarter - }	{ on malt made of wheat - }	—	—
	Bounty - -	5	—	—
13 Geo. III. c. 43.	The price per quarter - -	44	28	—
	Bounty - -	5 and on all malt made of wheat.	3	—

It is extraordinary that no one of the before-mentioned statutes, nor any statute till 13th year of Your Majesty's reign, c. 43, enacts any rule for ascertaining the prices, according to which the export should be allowed, or the bounty be paid; though some of them establish regulations for ascertaining the quantity of corn so exported, and the quantity on which the bounty was to be paid.

The officers of the customs, being left without any rule prescribed by law, pursued a method of their own: They obliged the exporter, in making the entry outwards, to swear, that the prices of the corn so entered for exportation did not, on the last market day, exceed the prices at which

certain Bounties were given on Exportation.

Beans.	Oats.	Oatmeal.	Barley.	Malt made of Barley.	Beer or Big.	Buck Wheat
			<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>		
—	—	—	24 —	24 —		
—	—	—	7 6	2 6		
—	<i>s.</i> 15	—	—	—	<i>s. d.</i> 24 —	
—	—	<i>s. d.</i> 2 6 from Scotland.		—	2 6 from Scotland.	
—	—	The same from England as from Scotland.	} —	} —	The same from England as from Scotland.	
—	14	—	22 —	22 —	22 —	
—	2	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6 and also on malt made of beer or big.	

which export was to be allowed, or bounty to be paid; and sometimes they obliged the exporter to produce a certificate to the same effect on the oath of some supposed credible witness—This practice was probably founded on the directions given in the 1st W^m and Mary, c. 12. for ascertaining the quantity and quality of the corn so exported.

By the before-mentioned statute of 13th year of Your Majesty's reign, it was enacted, that in cases of exportation from the ports of England, the prices of corn should be ascertained according to the methods directed by preceding acts of parliament, as well as by that act, for ascertaining the prices of corn or grain in cases of importa-

tion; and the bounty was to be paid according to prices ascertained in the same manner.—It is proper to observe, that the prices for regulating importation were, according to the 11th Ja II. ch. 19, ascertained only four times in each year—By the same act of 13th year of Your Majesty's reign, the prices of corn in Scotland, both in cases of exportation and importation, and for the payment of the bounty, were to be ascertained by returns made four times a year, from the sheriffs or stewards depute, or their deputies, on the oaths of two persons qualified in the manner in that act described.

This method of ascertaining the prices being found very inconvenient and detrimental to the export trade of corn, as the prices which were to govern the exportation and the payment of the bounty could be altered only every three months, though the real prices might in the mean time be very much increased or diminished, it was enacted in the next session, by statute of the 14th year of Your Majesty's reign, c. 64, that the prices of corn exported from Great Britain should be regulated and governed by the average prices, at which such corn should be respectively sold in the public market, at or near the port or place from whence such corn was intended to be exported, on the last market day preceding the shipping thereof; and that the respective bounties on each sort of corn should be paid according to such prices.

But even in this act no method was prescribed for ascertaining what these prices were, so that the officers of the customs were still obliged to have recourse to the method, that had before been adopted and practised by themselves—But this last-mentioned act, as far as relates to the port of London, and the ports of the counties of Kent and Essex, was repealed by stat. of 21st year of Your Majesty's Reign c. 50, and a new mode of ascertaining the prices in those ports was therein enacted; an officer created by that act, and called *inspector of returns of corn*, was directed to receive from the several factors of the Corn Exchange an account of the quantity of each sort of corn they had sold in the course of the preceding week, and of the prices, and the names of the purchasers; and from the prices at which the whole aggregate quantity of each

each sort of corn so respectively sold in the course of that week, he was to compute and form an average price of each sort of corn, and such price was to be taken as the average price during that week, and the import and export of each sort of corn, and the bounty payable thereon, was to be thereby regulated in the port of London, and in the ports of Kent and Essex.

In this state, which was certainly very imperfect with respect to all the ports of Great Britain, except those of London, Kent, and Essex, the law for ascertaining the prices of corn, as far as related to exportation and the payment of the bounty, continued till the passing of the act of last year.

As it appears by some ancient statutes not to have been lawful to carry corn out of the realm without the licence of the king, it may be collected from others that it was generally lawful to import Foreign corn into this kingdom; and from both these circumstances it may justly be inferred, that the legislature in ancient times was more solicitous to provide for the plentiful subsistence of the people, than to encourage tillage within the realm.

By statute 3d Edward IV. c. 7, several sorts of Foreign corn were for the first time prohibited to be imported, till the price of each exceeded the respective prices mentioned in the said statute.

This statute continued in force till 21st Ja^s I. when it was repealed, and the importation of Foreign corn was again generally permitted; but corn so imported was always subject to a duty, which varied according to the law in each period.

By 12 Cha^s II. c. 4. the importation of Foreign corn first began to be regulated in the manner that subsists at present, that is, by imposing high duties when the price of each sort of corn did not exceed certain prices, and low duties when it exceeded the said prices.

The following Table, N^o 6, will shew the prices at which corn was at any time prohibited to be imported, and at what prices the high and low duties on importation respectively took place, and what was the amount of those high and low duties upon each sort of corn at each period respectively.

N^o 6. PRICES at or under

By Statutes.					Wheat.
3 Edw. IV. c. 2. repealed by 21 Ja. I.	-	-	-	-	per Qua' 6 ^s 8
13 Geo. III. c. 43.	-	-	-	-	per Boll —

PRICES at which certain high or low

By Statutes.					Wheat.
12 Cha ^s II. c. 4.	-	-	Not exceeding	-	per Qua' 44 ^s —
			Duty	-	40 —
			Exceeding the above prices,		
			Duty	-	6 8
15 Cha ^s II. c. 7.	-	-	Not exceeding	-	48 —
			Duty	-	5 4
			Exceeding the last-mentioned prices,		
22 Cha ^s II. c. 13.	-	-	Not exceeding	-	53 4
			Duty	-	16 —
			Exceeding the above prices,		
			but not exceeding	-	80 —
			Duty	-	8 —
			Exceeding the last-mentioned prices,		
13 Geo. III. c. 43.	-	-	At or above	-	48 —
			Duty	-	6 ^d
			D ^o on wheat flour per cwt.	-	2
			Not exceeding the last-mentioned		
15 Geo. III. c. I.	-	-			When bar-
					at one
27 Geo. III. c. 13. (Consolidating Act.)	-	-	Under	-	per qua' 48 —
			Duty	-	24 8 3
			At or above.		
			Duty	-	6

which Importation was prohibited.

Rye.	Pease.	Beans.	Oats.	Oatmeal.	Barley.	Malt.	Beer or Big.	Buck Wheat.
4 ^s —	—	—	—	—	3 —	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	16 Into Scot- land.	—	—	—	—

Duties on Importation were to take place.

Rye.	Pease.	Beans.	Oats.	Oatmeal.	Barley.	M alt	Beer or Big.	Buck Wheat.
36 ^s —	—	28 ^s —	—	—	28 ^s —	28 ^s —	—	—
26 8	—	26 8	—	—	26 8	26 8	—	—
5 —	—	5 —	—	—	—	—	—	—
32 —	32 —	32 —	13 4	—	28 —	28 —	—	28 —
4 —	4 —	4 —	1 4	—	2 8	2 8	—	2 —
the low duties imposed by 12 Cha ^s II. ch. 4.								
40 —	40 —	40 —	16 —	—	32 —	32 —	—	32 —
16 —	16 —	16 —	5 4	—	16 —	16 —	—	16 —

When rye, pease, beans, oats, barley, malt, or buck wheat exceed those prices, then they are to pay a duty as before this act—further 5 per cent. was laid on French or pearl barley.

the low duties imposed by 12 Cha^s II. ch. 4.

32 —	32 —	32 —	16 —	—	24 —	—	4 —
— 3	— 3	— 3	— 2	—	— 2	—	— 2

prices, the high duties imposed by 12 Cha^s II. ch. 4.

ley is imported at 2^d duty, Indian corn or maife may be imported penny.

32 —	32 —	32 —	16 —	—	24 —	—	24 —
22 —	18 —	22 —	6 7	—	22 —	—	22 —
— 3	— 3	— 3	— 2	—	— 2	—	— 2

Till the first year of James II. no rule had been enacted for ascertaining the prices, according to which the high or low duties on corn imported were to take place; but as it was then found by experience, that great quantities of corn had been imported, without paying the proper duties, it was enacted by statute 1 James II. ch. 19, That the justices, at their Michaelmas and Easter session, by the oaths of two or more persons, not being dealers, and by such other ways and means as to them should seem fit, should examine and determine the common market prices of middling English corn, as the same was commonly bought and sold in the counties where any foreign corn might be imported, and certify the same to the chief officer of the customs at the port where the importation might be, and the duty on foreign corn imported was to be paid according to such certificate; and the same method of ascertaining the prices was to be pursued by the lord mayor and aldermen, in the city of London, in the months of October and April; and by statute of sixth year of Your Majesty's reign, ch. 17. they were to ascertain the prices in like manner in the months of January and July.

The justices in some counties having neglected to send their certificates at the Michaelmas session of 1728, gave occasion to passing statute 2 Geo. II. ch. 18, by which, in order to remedy the past neglect, the justices of those counties were authorized to settle and determine the prices at the next quarter session. And it was further directed, that, in all future cases of like neglect, the collector should be empowered to receive the duties on corn imported according to the lowest prices mentioned in stat. 22 Car. II. ch. 13.

But the mode of ascertaining the prices under stat. 1 James II. ch. 19. having been found, upon further experience, to be ineffectual, a new method was established; and it was enacted by stat. 5 Geo. II. ch. 12, that the justices in every county, where corn is imported, should at every quarter session give in charge to the grand jury to make enquiry and presentment upon their oaths of the common market prices of middling English corn, of the
respective

respective sorts mentioned in stat. 22 Cha^r II. ch. 13; this presentment was to be certified by the justices to the chief officer of the ports where corn is imported, and the duties on foreign corn imported were to be paid according to the prices mentioned in such certificate.

The method however of ascertaining, in the port of London, the prices of corn, as directed by the stat. 1 James II. was not repealed by this act. By this statute all foreign corn once imported was forbid to be exported from any of the ports of England, or even carried coastwise from one port of England to another; but this restraint was not extended to the ports of Scotland.

The statute of the 13th year of Your Majesty's reign, ch. 43, made no alteration in the method of ascertaining the prices for the purposes of importation in the ports of England, but left it as directed by former acts. But with respect to Scotland, it directed that the prices should be ascertained by the sheriffs and stewards depute, or their deputies, in the manner already mentioned.

By statute of 21st year of Your Majesty's reign, ch. 50, a new method of ascertaining the prices in the port of London, and in the ports of Kent and Essex, for regulating the importation of corn, was enacted. It was the same as that which has already been described for regulating the exportation, and payment of the bounty.

In this state the law for ascertaining the prices of corn, for the purpose of regulating the importation thereof, continued till the passing of the act of last year. It was certainly much more perfect, than the mode for ascertaining the prices, that were to regulate the exportation and payment of the bounty; and the legislature appears never till last session to have directed its attention to the prevention of frauds in the exportation of British corn, or in the payment of bounty, in the same degree as to the prevention of frauds in the importation of Foreign corn.

There exists however in the laws of this country another method for ascertaining the prices of the several sorts of corn in this kingdom, though enacted for another purpose. By statute of the 10th year of Your Majesty's reign, ch. 39, intituled, "An act for registering the
" prices

“ prices at which corn is sold in the several counties of
 “ Great Britain, and the quantities exported and im-
 “ ported,” the justices at the quarter session for each
 county, riding, division, or stewardry, held after the
 29th of September in every year, are directed to order
 returns to be made weekly of the prices of wheat, rye,
 barley, oats, and beans, and of big in Scotland (pease
 are omitted) from such and so many market towns as
 they shall think fit, not being less than two, nor more
 than six, in each county, and to appoint a proper person,
 being an inhabitant, for the purpose of making such re-
 turns to an officer created by this act, who was to be
 appointed by the commissioners of the treasury, and was
 to receive and publish them in manner hereafter men-
 tioned. The meal weighers of the city of London are
 directed to make the like returns of corn sold in the
 said city. In case the justices neglected to appoint the
 persons before mentioned, the lords of the treasury were
 authorized to appoint them; and the persons so appoint-
 ed were to be paid a sum not exceeding two shillings
 for each return, upon a certificate from the receiver, that
 such return had been properly made. And an abstract of
 all these returns is directed to be published by such re-
 ceiver once a week in the London Gazette, and to be
 transmitted four times in every year to the clerk of the
 peace of each county, and to the lord mayor and alder-
 men of the city of London.

The committee have examined the receiver of corn
 returns, appointed under the act, and they find that the
 provisions of this act have been completely executed in
 every part of England: — that the justices at their sessions
 have regularly appointed the persons who make the returns;
 and that the lords of the treasury have been never under
 the necessity of exercising the authority vested in them,
 in case of the neglect of the justices: that the returns
 are generally made from three to six markets of each
 county: that the persons making the returns are satis-
 fied with the allowance of two shillings for each re-
 turn; and the receiver is of opinion that these returns in
 general are as carefully made as the prescribed manner of
 making

making them will admit. The receiver also informed the committee, that from Scotland the returns, immediately after passing the act, were made pretty generally; but that the magistrates have by degrees ceased to execute the law, so that he has received of late no return from that part of the united kingdom, except from Inverary; and the reason, as he believes, is, that the magistrates consider the execution of this act as an unnecessary expence.

The committee have thought fit to state the several regulations of this act, and the manner in which they have been executed, in order to shew that there exists a method of collecting the prices of the several sorts of corn in the markets of this kingdom, which in England continues to be completely executed, and which was executed in Scotland for some time after passing the act, though this act was made for a different purpose than that of regulating the importation or exportation of corn, or the payment of the bounties.—And it was to the averages, formed according to the directions of this act, that Your Majesty found it necessary to resort, when the act of last year failed in its execution, and when You were graciously pleased to make regulations for the importation and exportation of the different sorts of corn by your late orders in council.

The committee will have occasion also to refer to the regulations of this act, in the advice which they shall think it their duty to offer to Your Majesty at the conclusion of this representation.

The committee will proceed next to state the regulations of the act of last year; and they will then consider what additions and amendments should be made to this act, and to the corn laws in general.

This act was made from a conviction that the provisions of former laws for ascertaining the prices of corn were very imperfect, and that great frauds had been committed under them. There can be no doubt of the existence of these frauds, as has been shewn more fully in a former representation on this subject, which the committee presented to Your Majesty.—The principal provisions

visions in which this act differs from former laws are, that it divides England into districts, and the average prices taken in each district, in the manner therein directed, are to regulate and govern the importation and exportation of the several sorts of corn, and the payment of the bounty thereon, in every such district. The city of London, and the counties of Kent, Essex, and Sussex, form one district, and the rest of England is divided into eleven other districts, each consisting at least of two counties, except that the county of Norfolk is made a district of itself.

In the district which includes London, and the counties of Kent, Essex, and Sussex, the average prices are to be taken from the market of London, according to a new and improved method.

Instead of requiring the oath of only two corn factors, chosen by lot, to the truth of their returns, all the corn factors within the city of London, and the suburbs thereof, are to swear that they will make true returns; and any person exercising the business of a corn factor, without having taken this oath, and obtained a certificate thereof from the Lord Mayor, is to forfeit £.50. A weekly average is to be made up of these returns in the manner directed by the former act, and the certificate of such weekly average sent to the collector was not to regulate the exportation of the several sorts of corn, and the bounty payable thereon, for the week to which these returns refer, as directed by the said act, but it is to regulate the same from the time that such certificate is respectively received by the collector of each port, to the time that a certificate of a new average shall be received by him; and for the purpose of regulating the importation of Foreign corn, an average is to be made up, not of the returns of thirteen weeks, as directed by the former law, but of the six weeks preceding every quarter session, except in the case of oats, the importation of which is still to be regulated by an average made from the returns of thirteen weeks; and a certificate of such averages, sent to the collector of each of the ports, is to govern and regulate the importation from the receipt thereof to the time that he receives another certificate.

In the other eleven districts the justices at the Michaelmas quarter session are to nominate certain principal market towns, not being more than twelve nor less than eight in each district, from which returns of the prices of corn are to be sent.—There are some exceptions made in the act with respect to the number of market towns in particular districts, from a consideration of local circumstances.—The justices are to appoint also, from among the chief constables, or such other persons as to them shall seem proper (not being dealers in corn, &c.) one or more persons residing in or near such market towns, to collect weekly an account of the quantities and prices of the corn sold therein, from those who buy the same;—these persons are to be called *inspectors of the prices of corn returns*, and they are directed to return in every week, to the receiver of corn returns in London, the weekly prices and quantities of corn bought in each market town.—Each inspector is to take an oath to make true returns to the receiver of corn returns, according to the accounts delivered to him by the several buyers, and to use his best endeavours to procure true accounts.—The receiver of corn returns is required to make up a weekly average, and also an average of the six weeks preceding every quarter session, of the returns received by him from each district, according to the manner practised in the city of London, as before described.—He is to transmit a certificate of each weekly average, and also a certificate of each quarterly average, collected from the returns of each district, to the ports of such district respectively, and such weekly certificate is to regulate and govern the exportation of corn, and the bounty payable thereon; and such quarterly certificate is to regulate and govern the importation of Foreign corn, from the receipt of the same by each collector to the time that he shall receive a new certificate.

This act contains many good regulations for ascertaining the prices of corn, so as to prevent many of the frauds committed in the importation and exportation of it, and in obtaining the bounties.—But the several clauses of the act were very imperfectly drawn, so that, at the time
that

that the committee laid before Your Majesty their first representation, this act had failed in its execution in every district, except in that, which is composed of the port of London, and the ports of the counties of Kent, Essex, and Suffex;—since that time five districts have made returns conformable to the act, but in the six others the act has not been carried hitherto into execution.

Your Majesty's attorney and solicitor general, in their letter of the 18th December last, annexed to the former representation of this committee to Your Majesty, gave it as their opinion, "That in those districts where market towns have not been selected and nominated, or inspectors appointed by the justices at the last Michaelmas quarter session, they cannot now be appointed, as no authority is given by the act for that purpose." And as the magistrates in several districts have omitted to exercise the powers given to them in these respects, the act, as applicable to the whole kingdom, ceases to be operative, and must therefore, as a general regulation, be considered as existing no longer. All the powers given by former laws to this end are by this act repealed; so that it is become absolutely necessary to pass a new law. And with this view it may be proper to consider, what parts of the act of last year, or of the acts that were thereby repealed, it may be fit to revive; what parts of existing laws it may be fit to continue; and what new provisions it may be right to propose to the legislature for their judgment and decision.

The committee therefore humbly offer the following advice:

- 1st. That England continue to be divided into districts, according to the plan of the act of last session; and that Scotland be divided into districts in like manner.

The committee think, that according to the true principles of the corn trade, as before stated, one general average ought to be formed, and taken from the prices of the markets of the whole kingdom, to regulate and govern importation and exportation, and the payment of the bounty, in all the ports thereof.

Such a regulation would tend to equalize the prices over all the country, to secure to those parts which may be in distress, a supply from the redundancy of more plentiful districts, and to preserve in the kingdom a stock, at all times, sufficient for the subsistence of its inhabitants.— It would also remove the principal objection urged against the payment of the bounty, as the bounty would not in that case operate, as it does now, to force corn out of parts of the kingdom for the supply of foreign nations, when other parts of the kingdom are in want of it; for as long as so large a bounty can be obtained by exporting corn to foreign countries, it can hardly be supposed, that corn will be carried coastwise (in which case no bounty is paid) for the relief of any other district at a considerable distance.— But as it is probable that the landholders, at least in some counties, will not approve of this plan, and as they now appear to be satisfied with having the kingdom divided into districts, and making the average price of each district the rule for governing importation and exportation in all the ports of such district, so much attention is due to their opinion and wishes, that it would not be advisable to make any alterations therein, contrary to their inclination.

This plan of districts is certainly greatly preferable, and much less liable to fraud, than that of making the price of each port the rule to govern importation and exportation at such port.— The committee do not think fit to offer any opinion on the manner, in which the districts were formed in the act of last year, as this arrangement has so lately met with the approbation of parliament.

But, in order to make the system complete, it is necessary, that Scotland should be divided in like manner into districts, and that importation and exportation there should no longer be regulated according to the defective and discordant system of former laws, and that in a business of common concern every part of the united kingdom should be made subject to the same regulations.— It
C was

was shewn by the committee, in their first representation to Your Majesty, that just before the late orders in council were issued, wheat was exported from Scotland to foreign parts upon bounty, while the price of that article was so high in England, as to open the ports there for the importation of foreign wheat upon the low duties.

2d. That whenever the export of any sort of corn is stopped in any one district, because the price thereof is above the export price, corn of the same sort should not be allowed to be carried from thence coastwise to any other district, the ports of which are open for the exportation thereof.

This regulation will tend greatly to prevent fraud; and as the price of any sort of corn in a district, the ports of which are open for exportation, must be lower than in a district, the ports of which are shut, it is evident that it cannot be carried for consumption to a district, the ports of which are open for exportation.

3d. That the act of 10th Geo. III. ch. 39, for registering the prices of corn, so far as relates to the appointment of inspectors, be repealed, and that the registry of corn published weekly in the Gazette, be formed upon the averages taken, according to the prices returned by the inspectors appointed under the act of last year.

Though these averages were directed by the two several acts before mentioned to be taken for different purposes, there can be no reason why they should not be taken in the same way, and by the same persons.—The prices of the several sorts of corn, as taken in these two ways, will frequently be different, as is shewn in paper N° 4 in the Appendix.—The prices, as taken in one way, are published in the Gazette, to enable the merchant to speculate; but when he brings his corn to port, in order to import or export it, he will often find that the prices, as taken in the other way, are not the same as those, on which he speculated,

lated, and he is thereby deceived.—The manner of forming these averages in the act of last year is certainly the most accurate, as is clearly shewn in paper N^o 4, before mentioned.

If the two modes of collecting the prices should be allowed at the same time to subsist, the counties will be put to the expence of two classes of inspectors; and one objection made to the act of last year is, the expence incurred by the payment of the inspectors.—The saving arising from the abolition of one class of inspectors will nearly defray half the charge incurred by the new system.

4th. That a duty of one half-penny per last be paid on all British corn imported coastwise, and one penny per last on all corn imported from foreign countries into all the ports of Great Britain, as is now paid in the port of London; and that the money arising from these duties be made a fund for the payment of the inspectors, and defraying the other expences incurred by this act; and that the corn returns sent by the post be not subject to the payment of postage.

The object of this proposition requires no explanation.

5th. That the inspectors be paid not by salaries, as directed by the act of last year, but by a certain allowance for each return, certified to have been properly-made, by the receiver of corn returns, according to the act of the 10th year of Your Majesty's reign, ch. 39.

It is obvious that the object of this regulation is, to secure the execution of the act.

6th. That in case the returns from any district shall not be completely made, according to the directions of the act, the importation and exportation of

every sort of corn in that district, shall be governed by the average price of the rest of the kingdom.

It is obvious also, that this regulation tends to secure the execution of the act, and to prevent in every such district, any improper importation or exportation.

7th. That a power be lodged in Your Majesty, with the advice of Your privy council, during the prorogation of parliament, to prohibit generally the exportation from this kingdom of any sort of corn, and in like manner to permit generally the importation, on the low duties, of any sort of Foreign corn, whenever the average price thereof, taken from the *returns of the whole kingdom*, is higher than the price at or above which Foreign corn is allowed by law to be imported, if Your Majesty in Your wisdom for the public benefit shall so think fit *.

A discretionary power of this sort appears to have been vested in the crown by a great number of acts of parliament †, from Richard II. to the present time; the acts by which this power was granted are cited in the margin.—It has been found by repeated experience, that the vesting such a power in the crown is necessary for the welfare of the people.—Government possesses at all times the best means of discerning the general exigencies of the kingdom, and the state of crops and markets in foreign countries, and there can be no just reason to suspect, that it will at any time be influenced by any bad motive to exercise this power improperly.

* Note to the present edition.—*Parliament did not adopt this 7th resolution, but temporary laws have frequently passed since the year 1790, vesting in His Majesty a discretionary power of this sort for a limited time.*

† Stat. 17 Rich. II. c. 7. 15 Hen. VI. c. 2. 1 & 2 Phil. & Ma. c. 5. 13 Eliz. c. 13. 35 Eliz. c. 7. 8 Ann. c. 2. 14 Geo. II. c. 3. 35 Geo. III. c. 35. 30 Geo. II. c. 1.

8th. That

8th. That the collector of the customs at every port in Great Britain, do transmit weekly to the receiver of corn returns, an account of the quantity of the several sorts of corn shipped in such port to be carried coastwise, with the name of the ship or vessel, the name of the master, and the port or place in Great Britain, to which the corn was intended to be carried; and also an account of the quantities of the several sorts of corn brought coastwise into each respective port, with the name of the ship or vessel, the name of the master, and the name of the port or place from whence it is brought; and that the said receiver do, at the end of every three months, transmit to the commissioners of His Majesty's customs in England and Scotland, an account, to be formed and made up in such manner as the said commissioners shall approve, of the quantity of the several sorts of corn shipped to be carried coastwise from each port, or brought coastwise into each port respectively.

There can be no doubt that in the course of the last six months, considerable quantities of corn have been exported to foreign countries, which were shipped under the pretence of carrying the same coastwise.

The commissioners of Your Majesty's customs have the merit of using every endeavour to prevent this evil, and there are already many wise provisions in the laws of this country to make the commission of this fraud as difficult as possible. A bond is given for landing the corn so shipped to be carried coastwise at some specified port, or at some other port or place in Great Britain, and no where else—there can be no doubt that the regulation now proposed will be an additional check to this practice, for by bringing into one view an account of the whole of the corn so carried coastwise, and by comparing the quantity shipped with the quantity landed, every fraudulent attempt may be detected.

9th. That the warehouses in which Foreign corn imported is to be lodged, under the joint lock of the King and the proprietor, according to the statute of the 13th of Your Majesty's reign, ch. 43, be provided at the public expence; and that the officers of the customs, whose duty it is to attend those warehouses, be paid by the public, as is now practised with respect to the warehousing of tobacco.

There is no regulation in our system of the corn laws, that is more beneficial and more deserves therefore to be extended and improved, than those provisions which permit the warehousing of Foreign corn—this regulation tends to secure to us a very important branch of commerce—it enables our merchants, who receive corn from the Americans in payment of their debts, to lodge it here, either for the home or foreign market, as occasion may require—it is also * the only method of forming magazines of a public nature in this country, against times of scarcity and distress, without prejudice to the British farmer and grower of corn—if the legislature have thought it prudent to pay for the warehouses in which tobacco is deposited, and the charges of the officers who are appointed to attend these warehouses, it is reasonable that the public revenue should defray the like expence in support of a trade which may in time prove more valuable than that of tobacco, and may become necessary, in certain contingencies, for the subsistence of Your Majesty's subjects; and from what has been already experienced in the case of tobacco, the committee have reason to believe that this expence will be no considerable burthen to the revenue.

* Note to the present edition.—*The object of this regulation was in a great measure defeated, by Clause 19, in the Act passed on this occasion, which requires, that corn warehoused when the high duty subsists, if taken out for home consumption, even when the price at the place where it is intended to be consumed is so risen, that it may be imported there on the low duty, shall pay in addition to such low duty, a further duty, which in the case of wheat is 2 s. 6 d. per quarter: and it can hardly be expected that corn should be imported to be warehoused, on such terms.*

10th. That Foreign corn imported and not warehoused be not allowed again to be exported.

When the high duties on importation subsist, Foreign corn is never imported, except to be warehoused; when the low duties commence, in consequence of scarcity of corn in this country, Foreign corn has frequently been imported; and in consequence of the right which the proprietors have heretofore had of re-exporting it, frauds have been committed in exporting British corn, which by law is not then exportable.—The legislature, convinced that frauds of this nature were committed, did by the 5th Geo. II. ch. 12, prohibit the carrying Foreign corn, once imported, to the open sea, in order to be landed in any other port of England.

If the public pay the expence of warehouses, as above proposed, the merchant can have little reason to complain that he is obliged to lodge his corn in a warehouse provided by the crown, under the care of the public officer.

11th. That corn so warehoused be permitted to be taken out, to be ground by the importer or proprietor, on condition that he give bond, not subject to any stamp duty, in double the value of the said corn, that he will export from the port where it was warehoused, within two calendar months from the time of taking out the said corn, a quantity of flour equal to the corn so taken out, reckoning the quantity of wheat meal, or other ground corn, for every bushel of such corn unground, according to the proportion as it is now settled by law; or that he will pay the duty chargeable on the said corn at the time that it was taken out of the warehouse.—And that no importer or proprietor shall be entitled to the receipt of any bounty on any corn or flour exported by him, until after he has settled his account of the corn so taken out of the warehouse, and discharged his bond.

This regulation will encourage in this country the manufacturing of foreign corn into flour—It will also facilitate the trade, as many foreign countries may at times be desirous of obtaining from this market flour instead of corn.—In consequence of the restrictions which accompany this permission, no considerable fraud can easily be committed. By statutes the 15 and 16 Geo. II. prohibited East India goods, being warehoused, are now allowed to be taken out to be dyed or glazed, on giving bond to bring them back in a limited time to be exported.

There is another proposition of more importance, which the committee submit with greater diffidence than any of the preceding; and which they only venture to suggest, in order that it may be taken into consideration.

12th. That wheat be permitted to be exported, but without bounty, when the price thereof is between 44 s. and 46 s. * and other corn when the prices thereof shall be in like proportion; and that wheat be allowed to be imported into this kingdom, from Your Majesty's kingdom of Ireland only, on the low duties, when the price thereof is at or above 46 s. and other sorts of corn when the prices shall be in like proportion.

The two regulations contained in this proposition, to take place whenever the parliament of Ireland shall

* Note to the present edition.—It will be seen by the preceding Table, No. 4, that British wheat was not permitted to be exported by the laws then in force, till the price of it had fallen to 44s. per quarter. And by Table No. 5, it will be seen, that British wheat, when so permitted to be exported, at the price before mentioned, was entitled to the bounty. The legislature adopted this 12th proposition, and by the law founded on it, British wheat was permitted to be exported when the price of it was below 46s. per quarter, though it continued to be not entitled to the bounty, till it was below 44s. per quarter. The exportation of all other articles of British grain was regulated in the new act upon the same principle. See stat. 31 Geo. III. ch. 30. Table. (B.) This regulation, by encouraging exportation, was thought to be in favour of agriculture.

shall make a regulation with respect to British corn, similar to the last in favour of Irish corn.

The committee are inclined to think, that these regulations are both beneficial in themselves; but they have coupled them together, as they think that the one is calculated to counteract any evil which may be supposed to arise from the other.—The great corn counties of Great Britain are in general on the east side of the island, and there corn is in general cheapest. The capital is fortunately situated in the midst of them; but many of the great manufacturing counties and towns are on the opposite side of the island, and there corn is generally dearest.—The first of these regulations will be beneficial to the corn counties on the east side of the island; the last of these regulations will be beneficial to the populous and manufacturing counties and towns on the west side of the island, which are more conveniently situated for importation from Ireland; and both regulations, taken together, will contribute to bring the price of corn in the different parts of the kingdom more to a level.

It is not probable that any great quantity of corn will be exported without bounty, unless when corn is much dearer in foreign countries than here, a contingency which may sometimes, but does not often happen; and there is little reason to apprehend that the importation of Irish corn into the western counties of this kingdom will discourage the agriculture of them, as much less corn is grown there than is consumed by the inhabitants, and the price of it is consequently high.

It was the opinion of the commissioners of the customs, in a report presented to the lords of the treasury in 1774, that the export of corn should be allowed to continue, when the price of corn is something higher than that, at which the bounty ceases to be paid; and some of the best judges on this subject have expressed the same sentiment*.

There

* Note to the present edition.—In addition to these twelve propositions, the legislature thought fit in the bill then brought in to raise
what

There are several other propositions for the amendment of the corn laws of less importance than those before stated, with which the committee do not think it necessary to trouble Your Majesty; but if it should be thought fit that any of Your servants should propose a bill to parliament for improving these laws, the committee will be ready to suggest them.

As the corn laws ought of all others to be generally known and understood, the committee think, that the subsisting regulations, and such as may now be adopted, should be brought into as narrow a compass as possible, and that the act of the 13th of Your Majesty's reign, ch. 43, and the act now to be proposed, should comprehend

what is called the importing price, that is the price of wheat and other sorts of grain, taken according to the price of grain, of the same sort, the produce of this kingdom, at or above which, Foreign grain of those several sorts should be respectively permitted from thenceforth to be imported into this kingdom. The object of this last proposition was, by securing to the British farmer a sufficient profit in the sale of his wheat and other grain, to encourage agriculture, and to promote inclosures, and thereby to bring into tillage a great quantity of the waste lands of the kingdom: It was also hoped, that by this encouragement the produce of wheat in the kingdom might be made equal, or more nearly so, than it had been of late, to the consumption of its inhabitants. How far this alteration in the system of our corn laws has answered the ends of promoting inclosures, and of making the produce of wheat in this kingdom equal to the consumption of its inhabitants, the reader will see by two accounts, inserted in the Appendix of the present edition. [No. 5 and 6.]

By the laws then in force, Foreign wheat had hitherto been permitted to be imported at the low duty of 6 d. per quarter, when British wheat was at or above 48 s. per quarter.—By the new law, Foreign wheat was not permitted to be imported at the low duty of 6 d. per quarter, till British wheat was at or above 54 s. per quarter, so that the import price at this very low duty was raised 6 s. per quarter.—It was thought however, right, upon the same principles, which had been adopted in the 12th proposition, with respect to exportation of wheat, to make the importation of Foreign wheat take place by degrees; and it was therefore enacted, that when British wheat was at or above 50 s. but under 54 s. per quarter, Foreign wheat should be permitted to be imported on paying a duty of 2 s. 6 d. per quarter. The importation of all other articles of grain, and of oatmeal, was regulated in the new act upon the same principle. See stat. 31. Geo. III. ch. 30. Table E.

hend all the regulations that are allowed to subsist; or perhaps, that even these two acts should be consolidated.

The committee are decidedly of opinion, that one permanent system should now be established, so that the grower of corn may know how to direct his industry and his speculations, and be sure that no temporary measure will intervene, to deprive him of the fruit of them:—The corn trade is in itself subject, from the vicissitudes of seasons, and other circumstances, to greater fluctuation than any other; it ought not to be exposed to the additional uncertainty arising from frequent alteration of laws, and changes of system.

In forming these regulations, the lords of the committee have endeavoured equally to provide for the prosperity of the grower of corn, and the necessities of the consumer.—The interests of the grower and consumer are supposed by some to be at variance: To reconcile them as much as possible, is the end which every wise government should endeavour to attain.—The interest of the consumer is entitled to the first consideration, so far as to preserve him, in every possible contingency, from scarcity and distress.—And as distress for want of this necessary article of subsistence cannot long exist in any country without exposing it to those commotions which frequently happen in times of dearth, it is not likely that the grower of corn would enjoy in safety the fruits of his industry, unless due attention is paid to this first and capital object;—but this point being once secured, the interests of the grower should in the next place occupy the particular attention of the legislature. The production of corn is the first and most important occupation of the subjects of every country, and on its success rests the main support and prosperity of every other trade. For the sake of the consumer therefore, the most liberal encouragement and protection should be given to those employed in it; for without offering proper incitements to their industry, plenty can never be procured: For these reasons it will be found perhaps, on due consideration, that the
interests

interests of the grower and consumer, well understood, are less at variance, than at first they may appear.—In the advice, which the committee have thought it their duty to offer to Your Majesty, they have aimed at discovering the point of union, at which these interests meet; and they humbly refer to the judgment of Your Majesty, how far they have accomplished the object they had in view.

CONTAINING

No. 1. An Account of the quantities of Corn and Grain exported from, and imported into, England and Scotland, for 18 years; &c.

No. 2. An Account of the quantity of Corn exported for 19 years, from 1760 to 1779 inclusive; &c.

No. 3. An Account of the quantity of each sort of Corn imported into England, from 1760 to 1779 inclusive; &c.

No. 4. How Returns of Corn are made from the markets of Leicester and Manchester.

No. 5. An Account of the several sorts of Grain exported and imported from and to Great Britain, for eight years; &c.

No. 6. An Account of the number of Bills for Inclosure that passed the Legislature in each year, from 1780 to 1799 inclusive; &c.

APPENDIX:

CONTAINING,

- No. 1. An Account of the quantities of Corn and Grain exported from, and imported into, England and Scotland, for 18 years; &c.
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An Account of the quantities of corn and grain exported from, and imported into, the colonies and drawbacks paid, and the duties received, thereon;

Received on Importation Duties	WHEAT and FLOUR.		BARLEY and MALT.		OATS and OATMEAL.		Exported
	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	
	Quarters.	Quarters.	Quarters.	Quarters.	Quarters.	Quarters.	Quarters.
1771 -	10,089	2,510	34,198	228	35,233	212,327	-
Price of the Year	Wheat, 47 s. 2 d.	-	Barley, 25 s. 8 d.	-	Oats, 16 s. 8 d.	-	34
1772 -	6,959	25,474	14,031	3,063	23,599	106,820	-
Price of the Year	Wheat, 50 s. 8 d.	-	Barley, 25 s. 4 d.	-	Oats, 16 s. 2 d.	-	36
1773 -	7,637	56,857	23,475	63,916	18,777	329,454	-
Price of the Year	Wheat, - 51 s.	-	Barley, 28 s. 4 d.	-	Oats, 17 s. 2 d.	-	33
1774 -	15,928	289,149	2,911	171,508	16,433	399,499	-
Price of the Year	Wheat, 52 s. 8 d.	-	Barley, 28 s. 6 d.	-	Oats, 17 s. 10 d.	-	34
1775 -	91,037	560,988	51,414	139,451	26,485	384,942	-
Price of the Year	Wheat, 48 s. 4 d.	-	Barley, - 26 s.	-	Oats, 16 s. 6 d.	-	32
1776 -	210,664	20,578	136,114	8,499	34,987	378,566	-
Price of the Year	Wheat, 38 s. 2 d.	-	Barley, 20 s. 2 d.	-	Oats, - 15 s.	-	26
1777 -	87,686	233,323	142,725	7,981	36,614	366,446	-
Price of the Year	Wheat, 45 s. 6 d.	-	Barley, 20 s. 6 d.	-	Oats, 15 s. 8 d.	-	9
1778 -	141,070	106,394	103,930	42,714	56,543	201,170	-
Price of the Year	Wheat, - 42 s.	-	Barley, 22 s. 8 d.	-	Oats, 15 s. 2 d.	-	28
1779 -	222,261	5,039	85,777	7,085	22,286	348,511	-
Price of the Year	Wheat, 33 s. 8 d.	-	Barley, 19 s. 6 d.	-	Oats, - 14 s.	-	23
1780 -	224,059	3,915	191,563	352	27,023	195,224	-
Price of the Year	Wheat, 35 s. 8 d.	-	Barley, - 17 s.	-	Oats, 12 s. 10 d.	-	22
1781 -	103,021	159,866	150,468	56	41,717	109,446	-
Price of the Year	Wheat, 44 s. 8 d.	-	Barley, 17 s. 2 d.	-	Oats, 13 s. 8 d.	-	26
1782 -	145,152	80,695	127,744	13,592	23,317	38,562	-
Price of the Year	Wheat, 47 s. 10 d.	-	Barley, 22 s. 6 d.	-	Oats, 15 s. 2 d.	-	28
1783 -	51,943	584,183	54,065	144,926	11,826	228,942	-
Price of the Year	Wheat, 52 s. 8 d.	-	Barley, 30 s. 4 d.	-	Oats, 19 s. 10 d.	-	35
1784 -	89,288	216,947	66,889	77,182	13,511	266,998	-
Price of the Year	Wheat, 48 s. 10 d.	-	Barley, 27 s. 10 d.	-	Oats, 18 s. 4 d.	-	32
1785 -	132,685	110,863	166,448	67,212	25,273	274,089	-
Price of the Year	Wheat, 41 s. 10 d.	-	Barley, - 24 s.	-	Oats, 17 s. 2 d.	-	13
1786 -	205,466	51,463	111,598	62,374	19,293	478,473	-
Price of the Year	Wheat, 38 s. 10 d.	-	Barley, 24 s. 4 d.	-	Oats, - 18 s.	-	27
1787 -	120,536	59,339	135,089	43,244	17,098	512,004	-
Price of the Year	Wheat, 41 s. 2 d.	-	Barley, 22 s. 8 d.	-	Oats, 16 s. 8 d.	-	27
1788 -	82,971	148,710	212,811	11,479	14,418	413,827	-
Price of the Year	Wheat, - 45 s.	-	Barley, - 22 s.	-	Oats, 15 s. 8 d.	-	27
18 Years.	1,948,452	2,716,293	1,790,250	864,867	464,433	5,245,300	-
		1,948,452	864,867	-	-	464,433	-
Balance Imported	-	767,841	-	-	-	4,780,867	-
Balance Exported	-	-	925,383	-	-	-	-

The price of the grain being fairly considered, both on importation and exportation,

	WHEAT	BARLEY	OATS	RYE	BEANS.
The average price of the above 18 years - per Qr.	44 s. 9 d.	23 s. 7 d.	16 s. 2 d.	29 s. 8 d.	28 s. 10 d.
The finest and coarsest sorts of grain generally exceed and reduce the average price as follows; viz. - - - - - } per Qr.	4 s.	2 s.	2 s.	2 s.	4 s.

No. 1.

England and Scotland, for 18 years, from 5th January 1770 to 5th January 1789, with
together with the average price of corn in England, under each year.

R Y E.		BEANS and PEASE.		PAID ON EXPORTATION.		Received on Importation.			
Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Bounties.		Drawbacks.	Duties.		
Quarters. ¹⁰⁰ P.	Quarters	Quarters. ¹⁰⁰ P.	Quarters.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
- - -	2,179	17,053	131	6,170	7 6	- - -	-	13,717	11 - ³ / ₄
34 s. 4 d.	-	Beans, 28 s. 6 d	-	- - -	-	- - -	-	3,766	1 10 ¹ / ₄
- - -	4,799	17,096	490	- - -	-	- - -	-	Duty-free.	
36 s. 8 d.	-	Beans - 30 s.	-	- - -	-	- - -	-	-	-
- - -	9,255	15,181	61,116	- - -	-	- - -	-	-	-
33 s. 4 d.	-	Beans - 33 s.	-	- - -	-	- - -	-	-	-
2,260	41,427	13,567	24,591	6,023	3 10 ¹ / ₂	- - -	-	13,715	15 11 ¹ / ₄
34 s. 4 d.	-	Beans, 31 s. 2 d.	-	- - -	-	- - -	-	-	-
2,722	33,574	19,349	44,452	7,849	10 11 ¹ / ₄	1,798	16 8	19,797	19 6 ¹ / ₄
32 s. 10 d.	-	Beans, 28 s. 8 d.	-	- - -	-	- - -	-	-	-
10,999	3,415	56,037	38,843	52,248	- 9 ¹ / ₂	786	8 -	3,688	18 -
26 s. 10 d.	-	Beans, 26 s. 6 d.	-	- - -	-	- - -	-	-	-
946	18,454	47,156	63,829	45,666	16 5 ¹ / ₂	102	1 10	8,836	8 6 ¹ / ₂
- 28 s.	-	Beans, 28 s. 6 d.	-	- - -	-	- - -	-	-	-
1,706	9,327	37,675	57,933	43,806	7 9	224	8 6	4,904	9 4
28 s. 4 d.	-	Beans, 27 s. 8 d.	-	- - -	-	- - -	-	-	-
3,199	1,693	44,593	43,745	54,506	2 6 ¹ / ₂	97	1 2	2,989	16 9 ¹ / ₄
23 s. 4 d.	-	Beans, 24 s. 2 d.	-	- - -	-	- - -	-	-	-
6,305	-	22,941	25,125	77,715	17 - ¹ / ₄	29	17 1	1,127	11 11 ¹ / ₂
22 s. 2 d.	-	Beans, 22 s. 2 d.	-	- - -	-	- - -	-	-	-
2,701	10,743	19,344	17,753	32,270	14 7 ³ / ₄	46	9 2	4,722	11 - ¹ / ₄
26 s. 10 d.	-	Beans - 23 s.	-	- - -	-	- - -	-	-	-
4,003	-	26,128	8,558	47,914	7 4 ¹ / ₂	55	7 1	2,349	17 1
28 s. 10 d.	-	Beans - 26 s.	-	- - -	-	- - -	-	-	-
3,365	81,295	12,960	31,614	13,357	4 8 ¹ / ₂	461	11 3	20,609	13 5
35 s. 8 d.	-	Beans, 34 s. 10 d.	-	- - -	-	- - -	-	-	-
6,731	24,779	10,976	45,816	23,620	4 6 ¹ / ₂	255	3 5	9,929	10 8
32 s. 2 d.	-	Beans, 32 s. 2 d.	-	- - -	-	- - -	-	-	-
13,163	28,761	15,904	16,813	26,314	5 10 ¹ / ₄	207	1 6	7,448	17 2
- 28 s.	-	Beans, 30 s. 8 d.	-	- - -	-	- - -	-	-	-
6,736	3,643	16,309	35,709	53,804	- 4 ³ / ₄	79	19 4	6,270	11 6
27 s. 2 d.	-	Beans, 33 s. 2 d.	-	- - -	-	- - -	-	-	-
12,683	7,054	18,260	42,884	56,979	18 9 ¹ / ₄	9	5 11	6,625	19 9 ¹ / ₂
27 s. 8 d.	-	Beans, 31 s. 10 d.	-	- - -	-	- - -	-	-	-
31,220	-	15,135	10,902	45,132	12 3 ³ / ₄	- - -	-	6,665	14 10
27 s. 8 d.	-	Beans, 27 s. 2 d.	-	- - -	-	- - -	-	-	-
8,739	280,398	425,664	570,304	593,429	15 5 ³ / ₄	4,153	10 11	13,167	8 6 ¹ / ₂
- - -	108,739	- - -	425,664	4,153	10 11	- - -	-	-	-
- - -	171,659	- - -	144,640	597,583	6 4 ³ / ₄	- - -	-	-	-
- - -	-	- - -	-	137,167	8 6 ¹ / ₂	- - -	-	-	-
Balance paid in bounties, &c. - - -				460,415	17 10 ¹ / ₄	Exports and Imports, Extracted from the Custom House Books. Prices of the 18 years, Extracted from the Corn Re- gister established by Act of 10th Geo. III.			
Balance paid in the 18 years amounts to - - -				4,776,000	- -				
Total paid for grain and bounties, &c. - £.				5,236,415	17 10 ¹ / ₄				
or £. 291,000 per annum.									

the great exportation trade entirely lost, which, from 1746 to
1765, produced a net gain of £. 651,000 per annum. (See
SMITH's Corn Tracts, fo. 136.)

	WHEAT.	BARLEY.	OATS.
the average prices of the 19 years (from 1746 to 1765) are } per Qr.	32. 3.	17. 8.	14. 0.
collected from the best authority that could be obtained -			

Appendix, No. 2.

An ACCOUNT of the quantity of corn exported for nineteen years, from 1746 to 1765, inclusive, with the bounty paid thereon; distinguishing each year, and the several sorts of corn.—N. B. This account is for England.

	Barley.	Malt.	Oatmeal.	Rye.	Wheat and Wheat-meal.	Oats.	Bounties paid.	
	Qrs. B.	Qrs. B.	Qrs. B.	Qrs. B.	Qrs. B.	Qrs. B.	£. s. d.	
1747 - -	103,140 2	361,289 3	2,122 4	92,718 3	266,906 7	12,010 2	141,123 1 10	174
1748 - -	73,857 0	349,363 0	3,768 4	103,891 4	543,387 5	15,813 1	202,637 14 11	174
1749 - -	52,621 3	355,469 5	1,281 2	106,312 4	629,049 0	12,605 7	228,566 8 1	174
1750 - -	224,500 7	330,754 2	4,283 4	99,049 3	947,602 1	10,554 2	262,583 — 2½	175
1751 - -	32,698 0	256,547 4	2,476 2	71,048 4	661,416 4	8,459 1	154,904 17 4½	175
1752 - -	106,331 3	287,578 6	1,590 1	57,847 2	429,279 4	9,666 3	186,218 7 —½	175
1753 - -	67,049 0	274,424 7	7,012 1	24,835 7	299,608 7	11,107 2	222,508 8 6¼	175
1754 - -	47,776 3	321,995 0	2,330 2	42,915 1	356,270 1	20,228 1	143,412 7 2	175
1755 - -	32,836 0	341,568 6	1,112 2	43,441 7	237,459 2	7,779 5	166,134 7 4¼	175
1756 - -	26,938 5	236,925 6	2,310 4	29,968 7	101,936 4	8,499 5	109,228 1 8½	175
1757 - -	7,094 7	56,164 2	4,417 6	907 1	11,226 0	12,117 0	22,558 16 9¼	175
1758 - -	691 0	10,728 1	1,831 4	—	9,233 6	7,932 4	3,752 6 10½	175
1759 - -	22,862 4	166,079 0	3,134 6	41,480 2	226,426 0	6,566 5	53,802 9 2¼	17
1760 - -	34,592 4	224,195 0	2,388 4	52,766 4	390,710 4	12,299 5	118,247 4 5¼	17
1761 - -	97,897 1	279,051 5	2,839 6	57,571 1	440,746 2	14,683 0	153,558 4 1¼	17
1762 - -	130,873 3	254,429 5	1,368 4	28,410 2	294,500 0	14,025 7	129,210 2 6¼	17
1763 - -	38,390 1	165,494 6	1,664 4	12,933 7	427,074 3	10,844 1	152,879 13 2¼	17
1764 - -	9,218 6	223,220 5	1,101 0	27,690 1	396,537 5	8,436 5	149,607 2 7½	17
1765 - -	19,631 5	208,235 3	2,047 6	12,083 7	167,030 0	9,633 5	33,933 14 8½	17

N. B. The comptroller general cannot carry an account of the bounties actually paid further back than the year 1747—but it appears, by an account of the bounties payable since the commencement of the present century, that the greatest bounty was paid in the year 1750.

THOMAS IRVING,
Inspector General.

Inspector General's Office,
Custom house, London, 25 Feb. 1790.

Appendix,

Appendix, No. 3.

An ACCOUNT of the quantity of each sort of corn imported into England, from 1746 to 1765, inclusive; distinguishing each year, with the amount of duties paid thereon, distinguishing each year.

Years.	Barley.	Beans.	Oats.	Oatmeal.	Pease.	Rye.	Wheat.	W heat Flour.	Total Duties.
	Qrs Bu ^{ls} .						Qrs. Bu ^{ls} .		
1747 - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1748 - -	14 4	—	—	—	—	—	385 0	—	24 11 6
1749 - -	40 0	—	Qrs. Bu ^{ls}	—	—	—	382 0	—	25 5 10
1750 - -	—	—	20 3	—	—	—	279 5	—	12 18 9
1751 - -	—	—	2,291 1	Qrs. Bu ^{ls} .	—	—	3 0	—	57 9 3
1752 - -	— 2	—	250 0	10 0	—	—	—	—	6 10 2
1753 - -	—	—	33 3	2 4	—	—	—	—	17 9
1754 - -	—	—	52,421 7	—	—	—	201 0	—	1,323 13 —
1755 - -	—	—	1,591 2	292 0	—	Qrs. Bu ^{ls} .	—	—	40 3 —
1756 - -	4 6	—	41,390 0	5,280 4	—	1,695 0	5 0	—	1,230 16 1
1757 - -	5,779 1	—	7,460 2	298 3	—	7,861 7	130,343 2	—	8,839 17 8
1758 - -	9,752 2	—	12,276 2	1,563 7	—	—	19,039 7	—	1,881 5 10
1759 - -	42 4	—	321 4	13 2	—	—	82 1	—	14 19 8
1760 - -	—	—	—	3 6	—	—	—	—	— 1 10
1761 - -	—	—	21 0	—	—	—	—	—	— 10 6
1762 - -	942 3	—	16,570 1	829 6	—	—	56 2	—	471 17 4
1763 - -	3,227 7	—	217,637 5	836 5	—	—	8 1	—	5,576 13 1
1764 - -	5,110 2	—	122,477 3	11,892 3	—	—	1 1	—	3,540 5 8
1765 - -	3,597 0	—	82,205 4	541 6	—	—	89,642 5	—	6,771 2 6

THOMAS IRVING,
Inspector General.

Inspector General's Office,
Custom house, London, 1 March 1790.

The inspector general begs leave to acquaint their lordships, that the rate of the duties upon corn depends upon a variety of circumstances, but more particularly upon the current prices at the time of importation, which prices cannot now be ascertained with any degree of accuracy during the period for which the above account is required. The inspector general has consulted some of the best informed officers in the long room, and they are of opinion that the importation generally took place under the low duties; he has therefore computed the quantities according to those rates.

Appendix, No. 4.

1st. **WOULD** the last-mentioned method of making the returns, according to the directions of the corn act passed last session, embarrass the business, or make it so much more difficult in the execution, that the returns might not be so regularly made, or that the persons making them would in consequence of any additional trouble be dissatisfied with the allowance now made them?

In answering the above question, it will, I conceive, be proper to state the manner in which returns are made under the act of the 10th Geo. III. and also those made pursuant to the act of the last session.

By the first-mentioned act, the persons who make returns, receive a sum not exceeding two shillings for each. They collect the prices by enquiry among the dealers on market days; and when ascertained, they make up their returns in the following manner; viz.

County of
Leicester.

Leicester.

Saturday,
February 6th, 1790.

A RETURN of the prices of corn from this market.

	Price by the customary measure.	Average.	Price by the standard Winchester bushel of 8 gallons.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Wheat per quarter, from - -	2 18 6	2 12 9	— 6 4 $\frac{3}{4}$
to	2 7 —		

Note.

The quarter is 8 bushels, the bushel containing 8 gallons and 2 pints.

The price of the other sorts of grain is given in like manner.

From the mode of collecting these prices, it is not likely that the inspectors can obtain them so accurately as could be wished, not being authorized to demand any account from the dealers, and the dealers not being obliged to render them any.

The method above stated, of giving the average, is not a true one. For if a greater quantity of wheat was sold at £. 2. 18s. 6d. than at £. 2. 7s. the average would be more than £. 2. 12s. 9d.; and if

if a less quantity was sold at the former than at the latter price, the average could not be so much as £. 2. 12 s. 9 d. It is therefore evident, that unless the quantity is known, and the cost of it, the *true average price* cannot be ascertained; of course the returns made under the act of 10th Geo. III. are not so accurate as those made pursuant to the late act, which enacts, That the buyers of corn for sale shall be sworn to deliver every week, to the inspector of the market at which they buy, a true account of the quantities they purchase, and the cost thereof.

When the inspector has received such accounts, which, at some places, are very numerous, he enters them in a book, from which he makes his return to the receiver of corn returns, as under, and then transmits a duplicate of it to the several collectors of customs within his district.

County of Lancaster.

Manchester, Saturday, February 6th, 1790.

A RETURN of the quantities and prices of corn and grain from this market, for one week, ended this day.

	Quantities, customary measure.		Price by the quarter.		Amount of each parcel at the several rates.			The aggregate quantity, Winchester measure.		The average price per quar- ter, Winchester measure.			The average price per bushel, Winchester measure.		
	Qu ^r .	Bushel.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	Qu ^r	Bushel.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Wheat by the quarter, Win- chester mea- sure.	4	4	58	—	13	1	—								
	51	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	55	4	142	13	1 $\frac{1}{2}$								
	8	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	54	6	23	8	4								
	93	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	54	4	253	15	— $\frac{3}{4}$								
	32	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	53	11	87	13	5 $\frac{1}{2}$								
	38	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	53	8	103	14	6 $\frac{1}{2}$								
	7	—	53	5	18	13	11								
	17	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	52	11	45	16	1								
	25	1	52	8	66	3	3								
	—	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	51	3	1	15	2 $\frac{3}{4}$								
	2	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	42	8	5	18	8								
		282	— $\frac{1}{4}$	—		762	12	8	282	— $\frac{1}{4}$	2	14	— $\frac{3}{4}$	—	6

If the average of the above was taken according to the usual method, under the act of 10th Geo. III. by giving the medium of the highest and lowest price thus, wheat from 58 s. to 42 s. 8 d. the average price per quarter would be only £. 2. 10 s. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. instead of £. 2. 14 s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

From what has been before stated, it is manifest, that the duty of the inspectors under the act of 10th Geo. III. is considerably less than

the duty of the inspectors under the late act, and that the allowance made to the former would be deemed very inadequate to the trouble of the latter.

2d. Can you recommend any method of making these returns, which will render them as accurate as those directed by the act of last year, and yet not put the persons, who are to make these returns, under too great difficulties in making them?

I can think of no method better calculated for obtaining true returns of the prices of corn and grain, than that directed by the act of last session.

JNO JAS CATHERWOOD,

Receiver of corn returns.

17th February 1790.

Appendix, No. 5.

an ACCOUNT of the several sorts of grain, exported and imported from and to Great Britain, for eight years, previous to the commencement of the new corn law [31 Geo. III. ch. 30.] and for eight years subsequent to its commencement; divided into periods of four years, with the averages thereof.

Years.	Wheat and Flour.		Barley and malt.		Oats and oatmeal.		Rye.		Pease and beans.	
	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.
	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.
1784	89,288	216,947	66,889	77,182	13,511	260,998	6,731	24,779	10,976	45,816
85	132,685	110,863	166,448	67,212	25,273	274,089	13,163	28,761	15,904	16,813
86	205,466	51,493	111,598	62,374	19,293	478,473	6,736	3,643	16,309	35,709
87	120,536	59,339	135,089	43,244	17,098	512,004	12,683	7,054	18,260	42,884
Total	547,975	438,612	480,024	250,012	75,175	1,531,564	39,313	64,237	61,449	141,222
Average	136,994	109,653	120,006	62,503	18,794	382,891	9,828	16,059	15,362	35,305
1788	82,971	148,710	212,811	11,479	14,418	413,827	31,220	—	15,135	10,902
89	140,014	112,656	345,685	11,128	33,283	437,594	40,151	14,845	29,644	391
1790	30,892	222,557	50,966	29,718	14,290	786,546	47	21,682	17,576	43,094
91	70,626	469,056	41,590	61,134	16,498	836,736	3,528	56,378	13,707	14,726
Total	324,503	952,979	651,052	113,459	78,489	2,474,703	74,946	92,905	76,062	69,113
Average	81,126	238,245	162,763	28,365	19,622	618,676	18,736	23,226	19,015	17,278
1792	300,805	22,786	47,541	118,526	24,628	1,008,750	16,151	13,027	17,285	43,254
93	78,789	500,572	3,447	147,169	17,380	722,527	512	55,592	14,352	48,273
94	152,202	328,446	9,296	128,568	14,436	862,979	1,920	24,472	10,800	130,612
95	16,920	318,104	6,416	18,071	5,988	460,378	277	24,039	14,550	36,071
Total	548,716	1,169,908	66,700	412,334	62,432	3,054,634	18,860	117,130	56,987	258,210
Average	137,179	292,477	16,675	103,083	15,608	763,658	4,715	29,282	14,247	64,552
1796	21,809	889,003	13,099	40,032	10,845	801,373	122	164,453	10,725	67,917
97	51,470	462,579	13,089	64,198	20,040	609,120	108	8,258	11,300	35,212
98	55,409	396,941	15,075	116,484	25,037	773,995	680	6,925	19,007	34,010
99	37,397	466,208	41,380	19,537	19,280	529,540	40	22,051	11,818	13,550
Total	166,085	2,214,731	82,649	240,251	75,202	2,714,028	950	201,687	53,350	150,689
Average	41,521	553,683	20,662	60,063	18,800	678,507	237	50,422	13,337	37,672

Appendix, No. 6.

An ACCOUNT of the number of bills, for Inclosure and Drainage, that passed the legislature, in each year, from 1780 to 1799 inclusive, with the averages thereof; in periods of four years.

	No.	Average.
1780 - - - -	37	
1781 - - - -	22	
1782 - - - -	15	
1783 - - - -	18	
	—	23
1784 - - - -	16	
1785 - - - -	23	
1786 - - - -	24	
1787 - - - -	24	
	—	22
1788 - - - -	35	
1789 - - - -	36	
1790 - - - -	28	
1791 - - - -	42	
	—	35
1792 - - - -	43	
1793 - - - -	63	
1794 - - - -	78	
1795 - - - -	82	
	—	66
1796 - - - -	78	
1797 - - - -	91	
1798 - - - -	53	
1799 - - - -	80	
	—	75



TWO GRAND IMPERIAL TOPOGRAPHICAL

M A P S

OF THE

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AND IRELAND.

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